



# A Slice of Pi

EPSILON SIGMA PHI, PI CHAPTER NEWSLETTER  
FALL 2010

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Thoughts From Your Pi Chapter President	1
Pi Chapter Website	2
Dorothy Freeman Receives ESP Ruby Recognition Award	
ESP Selects "Partnering for School Success" for North Central Regional Recognition	3
ESP Recognition—Applications Due September 24, 2010	
Pi Chapter Officers for 2010-2011	4
ESP Membership Information	
Seeking Silent Auction & Dollar Auction Items to Support MEWS Fund	5
Receive from MEWS: Scholarship Committee Update & Deadlines	6
Donate to MEWS	
...AND/OR Help your ESP Organization Thrive!	7
Your Time to Influence is Now!	8
Retiree/Life Member Updates	9
In Memoriam	

# Thoughts From Your Pi Chapter President

By Marcia Woeste

Pi Chapter President 2009-2010 ([woest001@umn.edu](mailto:woest001@umn.edu))

I hope each of you are enjoying the last days of summer. Personally, I am looking forward to fall! Fall, to me, means picturesque drives to and from work locations, cooler weather, and wearing snugly clothing. We are so fortunate to be able to experience changes from one season to another.

Fall is also the start of the "new" year for many of us! It's the beginning of school, 4-H starts its "new" year, and ESP will soon be starting its "new" year! I hope all members will consider joining us on Monday, October 4, for our Annual Meeting, from 5:15—6:30 p.m. at the Hilton Minneapolis/St. Paul Airport Mall of America, in Bloomington. We will be electing a new slate of officers to guide us through a new year. Following the meeting, we will join with MAEE at 7:00 p.m., at a joint meal/awards program to honor individuals we are recognizing with awards. I'm hoping we will see some lifetime members that evening!! As I write this, I do not have specifics on the MAEE/ESP Awards Event, so please watch your email or check out our MN ESP-Pi Chapter website: [www.extension.umn.edu/esp](http://www.extension.umn.edu/esp).

Those of us who are members need to spread the message about the ESP-Pi Chapter and invite others to join us. Several years ago, a change in our by-laws was made that hopefully will allow us to grow. Associate membership is open to all county, regional and state Extension program and administrative professionals who have served less than three years. This expands our potential membership to a greater variety of positions and to newer professionals, and also makes them eligible to apply for professional development scholarships from the MEWS fund. So, invite your colleagues, co-workers, team members, and more to become a part of ESP. We will only grow if we talk about ESP to others, and encourage them to join!

Speaking of awards, I'd like to congratulate several of our members who will be honored at the National ESP meeting, October 12-15 at Jackson Hole, WY. Dorothy McCargo Freeman, State 4-H Leader & Associate Director for the U of MN Extension Center for Youth Development, will be presented the 2010 ESP Distinguished Service Ruby Award. Also, the Partnering for School Success Team, whose members are Kathleen Olson, Colleen Gengler, Jo Musich, Mary Marczek and Patricia Stolpa, will be recognized with the North Central Regional Diversity Team award. CONGRAULATIONS to all of you!!

I look forward to seeing everyone at the October 4 annual meeting.

## Pi Chapter Website

By Neil Broadwater, Past President ([broad007@umn.edu](mailto:broad007@umn.edu))

We hope you have taken the opportunity to check out Pi Chapter's web site which was launched a few months ago. This is a great asset to Active and Life Members alike as you will find all the information you need to know at one site. If you have not seen the site, visit soon: [www.extension.umn.edu/esp/](http://www.extension.umn.edu/esp/)!

- Want to know about some of the history of the chapter? The History page lists all the officers of the chapter since 1929.
- There is a listing of award recipients since 1949.
- You will also find recent Board minutes, past newsletters and annual reports, award applications and recipients, deadlines, and the present officers and committee chairs.
- Perhaps you are interested in applying for a scholarship. The MEWS Scholarship Fund information is on the Scholarship page and provides guideline information and application form.
- There are also links to National ESP scholarship opportunities.

The website is kept up-to-date, so visit periodically throughout the upcoming year to keep abreast of what is going on within your Pi Chapter as well as at the National level. Check it out: [www.extension.umn.edu/esp/](http://www.extension.umn.edu/esp/).

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## Dorothy Freeman Receives Epsilon Sigma Phi Ruby Recognition Award

By Tamie Bremseth, Awards and Recognition Chair ([bremms002@umn.edu](mailto:bremms002@umn.edu))

Dorothy McCargo Freeman, Ph.D., Associate Director for the Center for Youth Development and State 4-H Program Leader, has been selected to receive the Epsilon Sigma Phi—National Distinguished Ruby Recognition for 2010.

The Ruby Recognition is the most prestigious award presented by Epsilon Sigma Phi, a national member organization for Extension professionals that provides development and educational opportunities. Ruby Recognition recipients are honored for outstanding thinking, performance, and leadership in Extension and are chosen for making highly significant contributions on the state, regional, national, and (when applicable) international Extension scenes in a variety of ways and over their career.

Under Dorothy's tenure in Minnesota, the 4-H Club Program has increased by 38% over five years. Dorothy also led a statewide 4-H effort in Virginia to reach at risk youth, which resulted in a proactive approach to engage non-traditional audiences in 4-H. Her leadership has expanded beyond Virginia and Minnesota, positively influencing the 4-H Youth Development program within the North Central Region and across the nation. Dorothy's passion for educating young people and promoting positive youth development has been the cornerstone of her professional career in Extension.

Previous recipients from University of Minnesota Extension include: T.A. Erickson, Minnesota's first State 4-H Leader (1953); Roland Abraham, Extension Director and author (1968); and Patrick J. Borich, Extension Dean and Director (1991).

As the national honoree, Dorothy will present the keynote address during the Ruby Recognition luncheon at the ESP National Conference in Jackson, Wyoming, October 12—15, 2010. Log onto <http://www.espnational.com/> to view the feature story regarding Dorothy and return to the website after October 15 to read or view her presentation.

Congratulations to Dorothy for being recognized for her impressive accomplishments!

## ESP Selects “Partnering for School Success” for North Central Region Recognition

By Tamie Bremseth, Awards and Recognition Chair ([bremms002@umn.edu](mailto:bremms002@umn.edu))

The “Partnering for School Success” team has been selected to receive the 2010 ESP North Central Region Diversity/Multicultural recognition. In the creation of this program, Extension educators in Family Development along with a research/evaluation specialist, and the University of Minnesota, Youth and Family Consortium, with funding from the McKnight Foundation, came together to address Minnesota's need to improve graduation rates, particularly for students of color.

The program team sought input through focus group discussion conducted with Latino, African American, Hmong and Somali parents as well as a focus group with service providers working with the various populations. Eight cultural guides—two from each population—helped the PSS team navigate their communities, gather data and put context to understanding and interpreting the results. Focus group results highlight important demographics, cultural and religious values, parents’ aspirations, successes and challenges related to their children’s school success. A similar cultural guide process is currently being employed with American Indian parents.

Results of the focus groups have been shared through pilot trainings in five school systems with school-parent teams and in conference presentations with a wide variety of school and staff from agencies and other education groups. The team is working with the cultural guides from each group to develop culturally appropriate versions of PSS for five cultural groups with the goal of assisting parents in helping their children succeed in school.

Congratulations to the team including ESP members Kathy Olson, Colleen Gengler, and Joanne Musich!

## ESP Recognition—Applications Due Friday, September 24, 2010

By Tamie Bremseth, Awards and Recognition Chair ([bremms002@umn.edu](mailto:bremms002@umn.edu))

It’s time...to nominate yourself or a colleague for recognition through ESP! Chapter recognition applications are due **Friday, September 24, 2010**, with recognition awarded at the MAEE/ESP Banquet scheduled for Monday evening, October 4 during the 2010 Extension Program Conference.

The ESP Recognition Categories are listed below with a more detailed description and an explanation of the application process available on the ESP—Pi Chapter website at: [www.extension.umn.edu/esp](http://www.extension.umn.edu/esp).

- Chapter Friend Of Extension Recognition—recognize a non-Extension (lay) person, company or organization for truly outstanding support and personal involvement in Extension efforts.
- Chapter Distinguished Service Recognition—significant contributions as an Extension employee throughout a career of 20 or more years.
- Chapter Mid-Career Service Recognition—significant contributions as an Extension employee throughout a career of 10 to 20 years.
- Chapter Early Career Service Recognition—significant contributions as an Extension employee throughout a career of 10 years or less.
- Chapter Continued Excellence Recognition—continued leadership initiative and excellence in program or administration; eligible after receiving DSA.
- Chapter Visionary Leadership Recognition—leadership that enabled Extension to anticipate a significant new opportunity and develop support to implement program organizational changes necessary to achieve success.
- Chapter Administrative Leadership Recognition—noteworthy administrative enthusiasm, performance, and accomplishment during an Extension careers of 10 years or more.

...article continued on next page

- Chapter International Service Recognition—contributed to Extension in other countries through state and/or overseas work.
  - Chapter Diversity/Multicultural Recognition—developed, implemented and sustained Extension programs and/or audiences in our diverse and multicultural society.
  - Chapter Meritorious Support Service Recognition—pay tribute to support staff that over time, have shown support for the mission, program, and professional staff and demonstrated excellence in this work (does not need to be a member).
  - Chapter Retiree Service Recognition—continuing contributions and outstanding service by a retiree.
  - Chapter 25—Year Recognition—completed 25 years of Extension work and current ESP member.
  - Chapter Retirees—ESP members who have retired during the previous year.
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## Pi Chapter Officers for 2010-2011

*Neil Broadwater, Past President and Nominating Chair ([broad007@umn.edu](mailto:broad007@umn.edu))*

- Candidates for office to be elected at Annual Meeting:
    - **President—Elect:** Kia Harries, Extension Educator, 4-H Youth Development, Worthington Regional Office
    - **Director, Active Member** (2—year term): Kim Asche, Extension Educator, Educational Design & Development, Hutchinson Regional Office
  - Officers who will continue on the Board:
    - **President:** Toni Smith (automatic, moves up from President-Elect)
    - **Past—President:** Marcia Woeste (current President)
    - **Secretary:** Sara Croymans (2nd year of a two—year term)
    - **Treasurer:** Jerry Tesmer (appointed)
    - **Director, Life Member:** Jeanne Markell (2nd year of a two—year term)
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## ESP Membership Information

*By Kia Harries, Membership Chair ([kharries@umn.edu](mailto:kharries@umn.edu))*

It's that time of year to renew your membership with Epsilon Sigma Phi and to encourage colleagues to join the MN Pi Chapter of Epsilon Sigma Phi!

A yearly membership for University of Minnesota Extension Staff who have been employed for 3 years or more is \$70.00. To be an Associate Member, Extension staff who have been employed for less than 3 years are invited to join at a rate of \$30.00. Retirees, or those who wish to join Epsilon Sigma Phi upon their retirement, will make a one-time payment of \$250.00.

It is also important to note that voluntary contributions may be made to the MN Extension Workers Scholarship (MEWS) Fund. This may be done on your membership form that can be found with the MAEE Annual meeting information or by contacting Kia Harries at [kharries@umn.edu](mailto:kharries@umn.edu) or 507-372-3908.

Epsilon Sigma Phi is one of the best ways to stay connected to colleagues across Minnesota and the nation. Watch for the membership information to be released with the Fall Program Conference information.

## Seeking Silent Auction and Dollar Auction Items to Support MEWS Fund

By Donna Geiser and Becky Harrington, Fundraising Co-Chairs  
([geise004@umn.edu](mailto:geise004@umn.edu) and [willi107@umn.edu](mailto:willi107@umn.edu))

Plan to show your support for the MN Extension Workers Scholarship (MEWS) Fund at the 2010 Extension Program Conference by **donating an item** that reflects your passion to the Epsilon Sigma Phi (ESP) Silent and Dollar Auctions. Do you like to golf? Paint? Go to your cabin? Think about donating a basket of golf equipment, a masterpiece you've created, or perhaps weekend use of your cabin.

All proceeds to the MEWS Fund will support Extension worker scholarships for graduate study and staff development. Extension retirees who are life-time ESP MN Pi Chapter members may also qualify for scholarships.

The **ESP Silent Auction** will be open the afternoon of Monday, October 4, and will close at 9:00 p.m. that evening. The **Dollar Auction** will take place during the MAEE/ESP banquet on Monday, October 4, 7:00—10:00 p.m. at the conference hotel.

To show your support of MEWS:

- **Donate an item** to the auctions as an individual or with a group. Approximately six items will be selected for the Dollar Auction, with the remaining items being offered on the Silent Auction.
- **Take bids** from colleagues who are unable to attend.
- **Assist others** with getting donations for the auctions.
- Volunteer to **help with setting up** the Silent Auction (Contact Donna Geiser, [geise004@umn.edu](mailto:geise004@umn.edu) or Becky Harrington, [willi107@umn.edu](mailto:willi107@umn.edu) if you would like to help.)
- **Make a cash donation** to MEWS if you are unable to attend the auctions.

### To register a donation for the Silent/Dollar Auctions:

To help with planning, please send the following information to Donna Geiser, [geise004@umn.edu](mailto:geise004@umn.edu) or Becky Harrington [willi107@umn.edu](mailto:willi107@umn.edu) via email by **Wednesday, September 29, 2010**. Of course, items will be graciously accepted after this date, as well! ☺

1. NAME of Donor
2. ADDRESS of Donor
3. EMAIL of Donor
4. ITEM DESCRIPTION (20 words or less)
5. ESTIMATED FAIR MARKET DOLLAR VALUE OF ITEM

Bring donated items(s) to the 2010 Extension Program Conference Registration Area upon arriving at the conference on **Monday, October 4, 2010**.

## Receive from MEWS: Scholarship Committee Update and Deadlines

By Phyllis Onstad, Scholarship Chair ([onsta003@umn.edu](mailto:onsta003@umn.edu))

A great ESP membership benefit is your ability to apply for funding from the Minnesota Extension Workers Scholarship (MEWS) Fund!! At present, the maximum amount you can apply for is \$300.

Please note that scholarship applications are looked at quarterly and the deadlines for scholarships are April 1, July 1, October 1 and January 1. Visit the Pi Chapter of Epsilon Sigma Phil website for scholarship guidelines and a copy of the scholarship application: <http://www.extension.umn.edu/esp>.

The new scholarship year began on July 1, 2010, and we have awarded \$300 scholarships to Kim Asche and Colleen Gengler.

We are currently looking for a committee member to represent the needs of our retired members. Please email Committee Chair Phyllis Onstad ([onsta003@umn.edu](mailto:onsta003@umn.edu)) to volunteer to serve. We ask that you consider serving a minimum of two years. Our business is conducted via conference call and email.

We thank Naomi Fruechte for her diligent work on this committee for the past four years. On-going committee members include Pat Borich, Colleen Gengler, Eric Vogel and Phyllis Onstad.

We had a total of \$4,225.35 available for scholarships for fiscal year 2009-2010. We awarded 11 scholarships and carried over \$196.62 into fiscal year 2010-2011.

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## Donate to MEWS...

By Gwen Gmeinder, Retiree/Life Member Chair ([g-gmei@umn.edu](mailto:g-gmei@umn.edu))

Our state's ESP chapter scholarship program, MEWS (Minnesota Extension Workers Scholarship Fund), is funded by contributions. Donations can be given any time of the year *in memory* of someone or to *commemorate* an anniversary, birthday, retirement, or other specified or unspecified reason.

- To donate to the MEWS Fund on-line, click here [MEWS Giving](#).
- Or, write your check out to **University of Minnesota Foundation** and send to the University of Minnesota Foundation, C-M 3854, PO Box 70870, St. Paul, MN 55170-3854.
- Or, donate Silent Auction and Dollar Auction Items (see article in this issue on how).

## ...AND/OR Help Your ESP Pi Chapter Thrive!

By Toni Smith, President-Elect ([tonis@umn.edu](mailto:tonis@umn.edu))

Did you know there are two ways you can donate to ESP to make it stronger?! You may provide a donation to the ESP-Pi Chapter organization as a whole or focus your contribution on the MEWS scholarship fund.

We would like you to consider ESP in your future donations. Many people have given to the scholarship auction, and we appreciate those funds in building a strong scholarship arm of ESP. (Please see information about the scholarship auction in another article in this newsletter.) Donations to the chapter as a whole are used as a revenue source for the annual budget to help cover expenses of the Pi Chapter throughout the year.

Did you know that the Minnesota chapter of ESP has 195 members, of which 46 are still working in Extension and 149 are retired life members? Our hope is to grow the membership of currently employed members and strengthen the involvement of retired members. To do this work requires increased membership involvement and funding, but we are very leery about increasing dues in these tough financial times. For that reason, we are conducting a dollar auction at the fall MAEE/ESP banquet to supplement both the scholarship and chapter funding.

We are also giving members the option to give an organizational donation. Donating is easy to do. If you wish to donate an item for the dollar auction or make an outright donation, please contact Marcia Woeste ([woest001@umn.edu](mailto:woest001@umn.edu)) or Toni Smith ([tonis@umn.edu](mailto:tonis@umn.edu)) or mail the form below with your gift.

Thank you for considering this donation.

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I have enclosed an ORGANIZATIONAL DONATION (check preferred—payable to “ESP-Pi Chapter”) for Minnesota ESP chapter.

Amount of Donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Donor Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Donor Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check below the follow up you would like for this donation:

Please send me a receipt for this donation.

I would like to be acknowledged in the ESP newsletter when the organization thanks donors.

I would like this donation to be anonymous.

I would like a follow up phone call from the ESP President or President-Elect

Mail this information to: Jerry Tesmer  
ESP Treasurer  
UMN Fillmore County Extension  
902 Houston Street NW  
Preston, MN 55965

## **Your Time to Influence is Now!**

*By Cindy M. Bigger\*, Legislative Committee Chair ([cbigger@umn.edu](mailto:cbigger@umn.edu))*

The signs are popping up, the phone calls are happening, and the door-knocking has begun! Yes, it is "Election Season"!

This is the one time of the year that all those running for office are open to conversations, ideas, and inspiration. During this time, you have a powerful tool at your disposal...it is your ability to influence. As all those who come and ask for your vote, take the opportunity to ask some questions and ask for their support for the things you care about. I am hoping all of you will raise the question with candidates about their support for Higher Education and the University of Minnesota in particular. Be assertive, be positive, and tell them why supporting the University is so important.

There are several ways to contact individuals running for office. First of all, talking to them one-on-one is always the best way, but there are others. Second, the power of a hand-written note or letter—especially in this day of electronics—cannot be taken for granted. Hand-written notes or letters receive special attention and are the most likely to be re-read. Using email is also acceptable; however, remember candidates receive lots of email. It is very important to let them know you are a constituent. Your email will get more attention if they know you can vote for them. Lastly, you can make a phone call. So many people say "I can't call them; I wouldn't want to bother them." Try to remember that they want to represent you, so they can take a few minutes to talk to you. If you cannot talk to them directly, leave a message and ask for a return call.

This is an important time for our state. All ESP members have the ability to influence. Take the opportunity during this election season to contact a candidate. "'Tis the Season," after-all!

*\*The author is herself a candidate for a City Council seat in Alexandria, MN!*

## Retiree/Life Member Updates

By Gwen Gmeinder, Retiree/Life Member Chair ([g-gmei@umn.edu](mailto:g-gmei@umn.edu))

**Madge Alberts**, associate extension professor and program coordinator, University of Minnesota Children, Youth and Family Consortium, retired on December 31 after 20 years of leadership and service for programs in the area of children, youth, and families.

**Carol Ann Burtness**, regional extension educator and active veteran of the National Extension Association of Family & Consumer Sciences, retired after 34 years of contributions to extension program areas of family and consumer science, food science, and food safety; her retirement was effective on January 31.

**James Deidrick**, retired on November 30, 2009 with more than 30 years in youth development and with experience in 4-H leadership roles at county, state, and national levels. In January, he began a new position as national program coordinator for Operation: Military Kids.

**Sherri Gahring**, professor and extension specialist in the University's Department of Design, Housing, and Apparel, and member of the Center for Community Vitality, retired June 1 after 40 years of service. Sherri began her career in 1970 as an extension home economist in Iowa and became an extension specialist in textiles and clothing for Minnesota Extension in 1975.

**Carl Hoffman**, retired on April 30 after more than 20 years as Stearns County's extension educator in horticulture. His extension horticulture livelihood followed a long career as a vocational and school teacher, although he had been gardening since he was a child on his family's farm near Clearwater.

**Lou Ann Jopp**, extension educator who began her career in home economics, Wright County, retired on August 13 after 18 years of service. Her career with MN Extension included developing and teaching programs in food science, Cooking Safely for a Crowd, Food Safety Employee Training, and Serve It Up Safely.

**Juan Moreno**, diversity and inclusion specialist for Extension, retired on January 31, after 31 years with the University of Minnesota, 12 of which were with Extension. He is most known for contributions to community building through diversity and inclusion in local, state, national and international arenas. He will spend his retirement in Florida and Ecuador.

**Robert Quinlan**, extension educator with 34 years of service and contributions in county and regional roles for 4-H Youth Development, retired on May 3. He also was co-chair of MN 4-H Camping Program Initiative Team.

**Kay Stanek** retired August 3. Kay's leadership positions in her extension career began at the University of Wisconsin Extension in 1968. In 2000 she was appointed as the West Central District Director and later as the Campus Regional Director, University of Minnesota Morris.

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## In Memoriam

**Delores Andol** passed away on August 5. She had a 47 year career with Extension filled, with many awards and honors—President of Pi Chapter of ESP, first recipient of the ESP State Mini Ruby award, member of the National 4-H Hall of Fame, and State Extension faculty award for distinguished service. She died at age 85.

**Bud G. Crewdson**, died on May 8, age 79. He was professor emeritus at the University's Department of Applied Economics, with a background was in agricultural economics.

**Marlin Oscar Johnson**, 80, area Extension educator and a longtime Crookston resident, died peacefully June 10. Marlin's career entailed numerous international agricultural assignments in Thailand and Chile.

**Shirley A. Ruedebusch**, age 76, long-time nutrition education assistant in Hennepin County, passed away peacefully surrounded by family on January 5.

2010 Annual Meeting (October 4) Information and Updates  
Check ESP Website [www.extension.umn.edu/esp](http://www.extension.umn.edu/esp)

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Rochester, MN 55904915  
Phone: (507) 280-2863  
Fax: (507) 280-2872



### **Attention ESP Members:**

Help save Epsilon Sigma Phi money! If you receive this newsletter via postal mail, but have an email account, please let us know! We can email you the newsletter and save printing and postage costs. Thank you to those who have already done so.

Send a message to Melissa Instenes—[mminsten@umn.edu](mailto:mminsten@umn.edu)—with your email address. Also, if your address has changed or changes in the future please let us know. Thanks!

### **Epsilon Sigma Phi A Slice of PI**

**Newsletter Editor:** Heidi Haugen, Extension Educator

